

Application No. 10/025,428

Amendment dated July 20, 2005

Response to Final Office Action dated May 20, 2005

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action mailed on May 20, 2005. Applicants respectfully traverse all objections, rejections, and assertions made by the Examiner. With this amendment, claims 19, 20, 28, 35, 37, and 38 are amended. Please cancel claims 16-18, 21-27, 32-34, 39, and 41. Claims 1-15, 19-20, 28-31, 35-38, and 40 remain pending.

Claims 16-18, 32-34, and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Waram et al. in U.S. Patent No. 6,533,752. Without conceding the merits of the rejection, please cancel claims 16-18, 32-34, and 41 without prejudice. Cancellation of these claims renders this rejection moot.

Claims 21-25 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Waram et al. as applied to claims 16 and 33 above, and further in view of Lafontaine in U.S. Patent No. 5,662,621. Without conceding the merits of the rejection, please cancel claims 21-25 and 39 without prejudice. Cancellation of these claims renders this rejection moot.

Claims 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Waram et al. in view of Lafontaine as applied to claim 25 above, and further in view of Hemmer et al. in U.S. Patent No. 5,531,685. Without conceding the merits of the rejection, please cancel claims 26 and 27 without prejudice. Cancellation of these claims renders this rejection moot.

The Examiner indicated that claims 1-15 and 40 are allowed. Applicants acknowledge the allowance of these claims.

Claims 19, 20, 28-31, and 35-38 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 19, 20, 28, 35, 37, and 38 are all amended into independent form. These amendments place claims 19, 20, 28, 35, 37, and 38 into condition for allowance. Claims 29-31 depend from amended claim 28 and claim 36 depends from amended claim 35. Therefore, these claims are also now believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments overcome this objection.

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Reexamination and reconsideration are requested. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is also respectfully requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

STEPHEN GRIFFIN et al.

By their Attorney,

Date: July 20, 2005


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